

October 18, 1962

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

GRORYKO AND CUBA

If Gromyko raises this question himself -- as he may -- you will probably want to hear him before you reply. But you will want to be ready to cut him off if he tries to express any direct threats.

If he does not raise the subject, the consensus last night was that you should remind him of the hazards presented a) by Castro; b) by arms build-up; c) by rumors of offensive weapons. He could also be told that Soviet Government has most explicitly guaranteed against such weapons and that this is fortunate, in the light of our own necessary position under the Congressional Resolution. I myself would not pinpoint any particular offensive weapon, but you might well aim your remarks at nuclear weapons in general.

McG. B.

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